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o".1, this has been neglected in making a comparison of the original readings, with the same corrected for eccentricity. This being done for each microscope, the residuals of the readings upon the same circle divisions under different microscopes give an indication of the errors of division. These are found to be sometimes as large as o".6, and, on the average, o".3.

The error of division for the mean of four microscopes, on the settings used, does not appear to exceed o''. I on the average. The comparison of the undividual readings corrected for eccentricity, gives for the *probable error* of the reading upon a single microscope  $\pm$  o''.25, which is larger than that usually found in making comparisons by other means.

R. H. T., Jr.

## THE DALLMEYER LENS OF THE ECLIPSE EXPEDITION.

In No. 31 of the A. S. P. Publications, under the heading, "Acknowledgments," the name of Hon. WM. M. PIERSON should have been included in the list of those who had materially aided the expedition.

Mr. Pierson's practical interest in astronomy is well known to Californians. From his private observatory he furnished the expedition with the excellent Dallmeyer lens of 6-inches aperture with which such valuable eclipse negatives were secured. The same lens was also used in several series of observations for determining the photographic absorption of light rays by our atmosphere at the altitude 6600 feet.

A number of long-exposure photographs of interesting celestial objects visible in the southern sky were also secured with Mr. Pierson's lens.

J. M. S.

## THE OBSERVATORY ON MONT BLANC.

The construction of a small observatory on Mont Blanc for the venerable astronomer, M. Janssen, of Meudon, France, a work of very great difficulty and danger, has progressed satisfactorily the past summer. The foundation has been firmly fixed in the snow and ice, and the building is practically enclosed. From a recent publication of the French Academy we learn that M. Janssen visited the new observatory in September, and was able to make a spectroscopic observation of great interest. It related to the question of oxygen in the atmosphere of the Sun. One of the most striking features of the